

**Minutes
Consortium of Cities
October 4, 2006**

Members Present: Don Brown, City of Louisville; Doug Brown, City of Longmont; David Callahan, Town of Erie; Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette; Bette Erickson, City and County of Broomfield; Christi Icenogle, Town of Nederland; Ben Pearlman, Boulder County; Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior; and Staff Dickey Lee Hullinghorst and Sheree Stroud

1. Reports from Cities and Towns

David Callahan, Town of Erie, reported that the new rec/library/senior center will break ground soon. They have started a trail connection project that is funded by a mill levy approved last year. Octoberfest was held last weekend and was very successful. Erie received a Governor's Award for their Concert in the Park series.

Christi Icenogle, Town of Nederland, said they had no ballot issues this year. They won a Colorado Color award. They are working toward approval of a Water Master Plan. Construction on the new community center has started.

Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette, told the group that there are four minor charter changes on their November ballot. One change deals with the old Albertson's/WalMart site. They want to redevelop and are asking voters to exempt this property from the growth management ordinance. They want to encourage creative ideas without boundary restraints. The council approved a conceptual model and hopes to work with the county on the portion they own. Lowes has approached Lafayette re: a parcel of land east of the city owned by the Waneka family. There are mixed views on this and the annexation will be on a February ballot. The fire department received a \$931,000 grant from the US Department of Homeland Security. They will put their ambulance service in-house and cross-train fire fighters.

Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior, reported they have completed a comprehensive process re: their recreational district and it will be on the ballot next year. Library services are on the ballot this year and they thank the librarians for all their help. They are involved in the first round of the Energy Challenge. The board will be voting on which ballot issues to support. They have already expressed support for the Transit and Trails issue.

Don Brown, City of Louisville, said they have Initiative 2A -- a use tax -- on the ballot. They passed a resolution in support of the school district bond issue. The new library opened and is very nice. The Land Use Revitalization Commission presented an Urban Renewal Plan for the area off of Highway 42, west of the rail tracks. They are working on the 2007 budget and have had a significant sales tax decline. They are working with a Business Retention Committee on ways to bolster tax revenues.

Bette Erickson, City and County of Broomfield, told the group they passed a resolution in support of the Boulder Valley School District bond. Bonnie Raitt will open

the new Broomfield Event Center on November 9. They recently voted to spend \$23 million on improvements on eight local roads.

Doug Brown, City of Longmont, said that voters will be asked whether to raise the public safety tax from 2.9% to 3.27%. There was a great response from law enforcement to the gang related killing. There is a need to boost the police department to help keep the peace. There is also a 2% lodging tax on the ballot. The \$320,000 in revenue would be used by the Longmont Area Visitors Association. Longmont was named an All American City. Use taxes are down because permits are down, but sales tax revenue is up. If the proposed budget passes, \$150,000 will be used toward energy efficiency programs.

Ben Pearlman, Boulder County, told members that a Transit and Trails tax issue is on the ballot. The tax would provide significant improvements and enhancements to transit and finally fund completion of interconnected trails in the county. This will be an important election for local governments. He encouraged everyone to look into Amendment 38 that would dramatically change how local governments do business. The county is also in the midst of the budget process. They are finally making progress on a county-wide Human Services Master Plan. It is at a point where a consultant can be selected and they can begin to get input from governments and non-profits.

Erin Minks, staff to Senator Ken Salazar, told the group that the federal budget process has been held up by the election. The Defense Appropriation and Authority budget has gone through and Boulder County businesses will see some money coming in from this. The Senator secured \$100,000 in a Senate's appropriation bill for work on the South Boulder Creek floodplain.

2. Approval of Minutes

Lisa Skumatz moved to approve the June 7, 2006, minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Regional Library Authority Update

Jane Uitti, Boulder County Commissioner Staff, gave members an update on the research she has performed re: a Library Authority. At the last Consortium meeting, the members discussed a phased approach, as it didn't appear there was enough support at this time for a ballot issue. One idea was better reporting on the regional services areas for various libraries. Ms. Uitti looked at a library authority that would not collect taxes but would be formed simply to collect numbers for reporting purposes. This was not met with much interest. Don Brown was disappointed that the libraries weren't open to this. There needs to be an initial step and he thought a reporting system would be a great first step. Ben Pearlman wondered if there were an alternate small step. Don Brown asked if anyone had looked at models. Ms. Uitti explained that most other jurisdictions are part of a library district. Reorganizing in this fashion would be a major change and take away the autonomy of each city's library. There was discussion on a small county-wide library enhancement tax. Ben Pearlman is concerned about this because the county policy is to keep retail out of

unincorporated Boulder County and in the cities and towns; therefore, unincorporated citizens do pay some taxes toward libraries via sales taxes. The group decided to wait until after the election to discuss this topic again. Ben Pearlman suggested that the members talk about this again when setting priorities for 2007. At that time, they can decide if it's productive to pursue this further.

4. Energy Strategy Task Force Report and Discussion of Goal Statement

Doug Brown explained that the Energy Strategy Task Force has been working on a goal statement and presented several alternatives for the Consortium members to review. The group thought it should really be called a Mission Statement. They also wanted to change the language from "utilize renewable energy" to "make use of renewable energy". A motion was made to approve the Mission Statement as amended and it passed unanimously. The ESTF has also come up with several early action items. Pam Milmoie, Boulder County Public Health, told the group that the task force has been really active and come up with innovative strategies. The ESTF would like to see some cohesion among the various municipalities as they implement these early strategies. There was discussion that recommendations by the ESTF should go to the Consortium before being presented to the various municipalities. Lisa Skumatz told the group that the task force worked hard to come up with integrated programs that would make a splash. The cost to a municipality would be \$18,000 to \$41,000 depending on the range of involvement and implementation. Lisa Skumatz moved that the Consortium move forward with adopting the early action items and take the proposal back to their budget committees. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

5. Revenue Stability/Revenue Sharing Report

Carl Castillo, Intergovernmental Coordinator for the City of Boulder, gave an update on the Revenue Stability Working Group. He has looked at a variety of organizations to see who the experts are, how to bring them in, and what it would cost. A third party facilitator would be a good idea because this is such a sensitive and complex subject. Ben Pearlman told the group he was supposed to develop a written statement defining the problem, potential next steps, and possible resolutions. He drafted some "principles" instead, trying to capture the essence of the discussions the working group has had. He will take this to the working group and bring any ideas they have back to the Consortium. It is obvious there is significant value in working on this together.

The next meeting will be December 6 at the Boulder County Courthouse.